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COUNTRY Cuba

SUBJECT Communist CTC Activities

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1. Despite protests from the anti-Communist labor groups, the Cuban government took no action against the opening of the Sixth Communist Confederacion de Trabajadores de Cuba (CTC) congress on 8 April 1949.
2. The Communist CTC, although it maintained a separate fight against all other labor elements, has lost many of its members who have returned recently to anti-Communist syndicates. This movement continues, with the Communists even paying their dues to non-Communist syndicates in direct contradiction to the Partido Socialista Popular's (PSP-Cuban Communist Party) stand taken at the Santa Clara conference in August 1948.
3. In view of the ascendancy of the Comision Obrera Nacional (CON), many Communist leaders believe they should re-enter the non-Communist CTC since their group will no longer be able to take advantage of discord in opposing anti-Communist factions. Communists, therefore, consider it wise to join the opposition and seek offices therein, looking toward eventual power and control of the CTC.
4. Dissension has developed among Communist workers against Blas Roca, Secretary General of the PSP, who caused the expulsion of thousands of PSP members simply because they believed they should join the labor opposition and fight from within rather than maintain a bold front against the opposition. Many Communist workers blamed Blas Roca for a tactical error and his prestige has been at least temporarily damaged because of his Santa Clara decision.\*
5. There have been rumors in labor circles of a possible rapprochement between Angel Cofino, leader of the Comité Obrero Nacional Independiente, and the Communists. Early in 1948 Pena made overtures to Cofino to join forces with the Communist CTC, but the latter refused. According to source, since Cofino has made statements which will make his return to the anti-Communist CTC impossible, he is likely to choose whatever labor sector he can control to some extent, rather than become a complete nonentity. Source stated that Cofino, who has no present chance of winning against CON, could create a fairly strong organization in combination with Pena's group.

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